proposals from the retired scientists under the scheme entitled 'Emeritus Scientist Scheme'. Agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and basic sciences relating to agriculture are the areas of research support. The duration of the support is for 2 years in the first instance but is extendable for another 2 years in especially deserving cases.

University Grants Commission (UGC) also supports the retired scientists/professors under the 'Emeritus Fellowship' scheme. In addition there is book-writing programme in UGC given to superannuated Professors in the various fields of specialization. For continuing the interest of elderly scientists in research field support is provided by UGC. All these supports are provided to the scientist/professors upto the age of 65 years.

However, the Departments of Biotechnology, Electronics Space and Atomic Energy do not operate such schemes.

अंतरिक्ष विभाग के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों का निजीकरण

1376. **मौलाना अबैदुल्ला खान आजमी** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अन्तरिक्ष विभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में निजीकरण किए जाने संबंधी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा) : (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं । **फिर भी,** भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) ने पिछले **शताब्दों में अन्तरिक्ष परियोजनाओं की जरूरतों को** पूरा करने के लिए तथा अन्तरिक्ष के लिए विकसित प्रौद्योगिकियों के प्रचक्रण वाणिज्यिक उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए; सार्वजनिक तथा निजी दोनों क्षेत्रों के राष्ट्रीय उद्योगों की गहन भागीदारी को मुख्य रूप में सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी अन्तरण कार्यक्रम को सक्रिय रूप में प्रोत्साहित किया है।

Space research programme

1377. SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the space reserch programmes at ISRO likely to be undertaken during the Eigth Five Year plan period; and

(b) the progress made in satellite launching and their SLVs of indigenous creation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) During Eighth Five Year Plan the operational services in the areas of telecommunication, broadcasting, education, meteorology, disaster management and management of natural resources, provided by Indian National Satellite (INSAT) and Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) system will be sustained and augmented. Towards developing indigenous capability to launch operational satellites, Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) are planned to be developed. The details are as follows :

(1) *INSAT System*

The existing INSAT system will be augmented with the proposed